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LETTER DATED 8 APRIL 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a note dated 28 March 1996 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan to the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, conveying the protest of the Government of the Sudan in the strongest terms regarding the flagrant and massive attacks by Ethiopian forces against the territories of the Sudan on 17 and 23 March 1996.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali M. O. YASSIN
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 28 March 1996 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and is duty bound to convey to the latter, in the strongest terms, the protest of the Government of the Sudan regarding the serious course recently opted for by Ethiopia that culminated in the flagrant and massive attacks by its forces, with tanks, heavy artillery and other support weapons and equipment, against both the Sudanese garrison at Yaboos and the town of Fashalla, on 17 and 23 March 1996, respectively, and their subsequent hand-over to the Sudanese rebel forces in an old-styled collaboration.

The Government of the Sudan has repeatedly, and over past months, brought to the attention of the Ethiopian Government, to no avail, several cases of attacks and violations perpetrated and carried out by its armed forces against various positions and towns inside the Sudanese territory that resulted in the invasion and occupation of some of the positions, as in the case of Taya in January 1996, let alone the casualties and loss of lives, kidnapping of individuals, intimidation of Sudanese farmers, wide-scale looting a[illegible] destruction of property.

The recent Ethiopian attacks have clearly been marked by open and joint operations with the Sudanese rebel forces. The regrouping of the rebel forces in western Ethiopia and ongoing build-up of Ethiopian troops in their support reveal the ill intentions and designs against the southern Blue Nile and northern Upper Nile regions and threaten with serious consequences the situation along the entire joint border.

In outlining the foregoing serious developments, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is convinced that mere denials by Ethiopia will not serve the purpose of averting a situation that can have catastrophic implications for the peace and stability of the whole region. The active collaboration between Ethiopia and the rebel forces that has once been recorded in video tapes and presented to Ethiopia and other concerned parties in May 1995 as material evidence confirms that necessary lessons from past Ethio-Sudanese relations should be drawn.

While reiterating its commitment to good neighbourliness, the Sudan demands that Ethiopia desist from current policies and practices of destabilization against the Sudan which will not serve the interests and objectives of normal relations between the two countries and peoples.